

Task Force on Open Space Acquisition

Date: October 27, 2004

Time: 7:30

Place: Teen Room, Falls Church Community Center

Minutes:

Attending: Barry Buschow, Rob Meeks, Marty Meserve, Lindy Hockenberry, Kathleen Nixon, Christina Goodwin, Rob Puentes, Howard Herman, Gary Fuller, and Wyatt Shields. Also present were Tom Edmonds and Joyce Berg.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Barry Buschow at 7:35 pm. He allowed time for public comment, and Ms. Joyce Berg spoke to the issue of access to Falls Avenue for the West End Park. She also presented information about the breakdown of open space by ward, and noted the large discrepancy between wards. Ms. Meserve noted a potential problem with buffer requirements if the Falls Ave. access parcel was zoned residential, as parkland typically is in the City, and suggested an easement might be a way to avoid that issue.

Ms. Nixon asked if the Task Force was to weigh in on the Falls Church Housing Corporation proposal on land adjacent to the West End Park. Mr. Buschow requested that question be deferred to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Buschow asked if there were any comments on the meeting minutes for the September 29 meeting. Mr. Buschow noted several typographical errors, but otherwise there were none.

Review of Work Plan. Mr. Shields noted that the next meeting in November would focus on the legal tools available to the City for acquiring open space, and the following meeting in December would be a discussion of how those tools can best be employed in the context of the City's financial resources.

Parcel Selection and Prioritization. Mr. Shields, Herman, and Fuller presented the "Strawman" that was prepared and distributed prior to the meeting. Using the City's online property information mapping software, the task force viewed and discussed each parcel listed. The following guidance was given to staff, for the second draft:

- divide the parcels into three categories: "Open Space"; "Riparian Buffer"; and "Regional".
- Drop the Pine Street Lot, the Library Park lot, and the Cherry Street/Columbia lot.
- Add linkages/greenways as a separate category.

Mr. Buschow asked the Task Force if they would weigh in on the Housing Corporation proposal at West End park. After discussion, with some in favor and some opposed, it was agreed that the Task Force would not weigh in on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Wyatt Shields